



Outlook

EAO 512 Luz Elena Chapa FW: TIME SENSITIVE/ATTN: Mr. Seth Smith

From TEC Helpline </O EXCHANGELABS/OU EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5BB04CB10D9541AE9E42F5908A5A945C-TEC HELPLIN>

Date Wed 2/4/2026 1:53 PM

To Seth Smith <seth.smith@ethics.state.tx.us>

I couldn't find a record of speaking to this Bexar County DA candidate in November 2025 as she states, but we had spoken before in April 2025 regarding her seeking an extension to 6/30/25 to file her PFS. She'd served on the 4th Court of Appeals and said she presently was serving as a municipal judge.

We also spoke (sometime last fall?) about whether she could refer to herself as a Judge. I told her we can't give an opinion without an AOR, but I referred her to EAO 512, which allows an appointed judge to use the term "judge". But I also told her she needed to call the State Commission on Judicial Conduct since their opinion would be the most important.

I just found a 1993 Opinion of The State Commission on Judicial Conduct, Opinion No. 159 (1993) on "Use of 'Judge' by Sitting Judge Running for Non-Judicial Office", where they held under Canon 2B that a judge could not use the title "judge" in his political advertisement for a non-judicial office. That was the answer for this matter, regardless of our EAO 512.

Thanks,
Seth

[Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 512](#)

From: LuzElena [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 12:00 PM
To: TEC Helpline <helpline@ethics.state.tx.us>
Subject: TIME SENSITIVE/ATTN: Mr. Seth Smith

Good afternoon, Seth!

I hope you are well. Can you please call me at 210.414.3838? I am reaching out about the conversation we had last November. Thanks so much!

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Best, LEC

Luz Elena D. Chapa